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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7837  
INFO RUCNMR/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2652  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0551  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ DEC SANTIAGO 3097

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 001052

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DEPT ALSO FOR WHA A/S THOMAS SHANNON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/19/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [CJAN](#) [ASEC](#) [KJUS](#) [VE](#) [AR](#) [UY](#)  
SUBJECT: URUGUAY: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON UNREGISTERED AGENTS  
OPERATING IN THE US

REF: STATE 168617

Classified By: Charge D'Affaires Peter X. Harding  
for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

11. (C) On December 19, per instructions reftel, Charge discussed subject talking points with MFA Americas Desk Director Laura Dupuy. She listened attentively and first referred to the arrested Uruguayan citizen (Rodolfo Edgardo Wanseele Paciello) asking, "How serious are the charges against someone who is an unregistered foreign agent?" Dupuy then said that ordinary Uruguayans were now "very curious" about the "Valijagate" case because of its impact in Argentina and to its bilateral relations with the US. She also observed that the timing of the arrests was "unfortunate", although had they occurred during the height of the presidential campaign suspicions of "outside interference" would have been even more pronounced. Finally, she characterized the whole Antonini Wilson affair as "folkloric" and promised to pass our concerns within the MFA.

12. (C) Comment: Dupuy, like many of our contacts, seemed to already believe in the US version of events. However, we note that following the Mercosur Common Market Council (CMC) meeting in Montevideo on December 17, pro-Chavez Foreign Minister Reinaldo Gargano remarked that even though the Antonini Wilson affair had not been discussed at the CMC, he was of the opinion that the arrest of the five men in Miami was part of a plot to discredit Argentine President Christina Fernandez de Kirchner. End Comment.  
Harding